



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/774,651	02/06/2004	David M. Oliver	RSW920030179US1	8803
46270	7590	01/22/2009	EXAMINER	
(SAUL-RSW) PATENT DOCKETING CLERK IBM Corporation (SAUL-RSW) C/O Saul Ewing LLP Penn National Insurance Tower 2 North Second Street, 7th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101			BARQADLE, YASIN M	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2456				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/22/2009		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/774,651	OLIVER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	YASIN M. BARQADLE	2456	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,3-8, 10-15, 17-22 and ,24-26 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,3-8,10-15,17-22 and 24-26 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 16, 2008 has been entered.

***Response to Amendment***

2. The amendment filed on December 16, 2008 has been fully considered but are not persuasive.

**NOTE:** The prosecution for this case has been transferred to another Examiner. All corresponding communications should be directed to Examiner's contact information, provided below.

***Response to Arguments***

*In essence the Applicant argues “neither reference discloses initiating an action a non-SMS client in response to a SIA message after identifying an SIA message identifier in an activation message.” Page 9, forth paragraph.*

*The Examiner notes*, the combined teachings of APA and Gress the argued limitation.

For example, APA describes essentially the same system as the present invention except for the fact that the device is a SMS device such as a cell phone (see Spec. at paragraph 2). The SMS device receives an “alert message” indicating that a new email has arrived and the user (in response) “takes action to connect to the enterprise server to download and read the email” (see id., with emphasis added)

Gress teaches the missing limitation of specifying where the device is a non-SMS device.

Gress teaches a system for converting SMS messages into a unified format and sending the messages to non-SMS devices. For example, in figures 1 and 2, Gress shows a unified messaging system (20) that receives SMS messages and converts them into, for example, email messages (40). Furthermore, MSN teaches receiving messages containing a Content-Type field that identifies the type of message, wherein the type of message can be an SIA chat message (an email notification) (text/x-msmsgsemailnotification) or a textual message from another user (text/plain) [see “messaging.php”, pages 5-6; “connecting.php”, page 4]. Obviously one of ordinary skill in the art would utilize Gress’ system that includes message identifier in order receive the SIA activation messages described in the APA. One ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine APA with Gress, because Gress’ system provides advantages such as

enabling non-SMS type devices to access SMS messages and fulfilling the need for a unified messaging system (see Gress, at abstract, col. 2, ll. 1-14).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-22, and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.**

**103(a) as being unpatentable over MSN ("MSN Instant Messenger Protocol", 23-27 April 2002, printed from [hypothetic.org](http://hypothetic.org)).**

MSN describes the MSN Messenger protocol. The MSN Messenger Protocol uses email notifications as detailed on page 4 of the "connecting.php" page. The most relevant section of that page is reproduced as follows:

#### **Other Server Messages**

---

Besides the two initial messages that are received when logging in, the server can also send other types of messages during the session. I have found two of these so far: `text/x-msmsgsemailnotification` and `text/x-msmsgsactivemailnotification`. The first one notifies you when a new email has been received. The second notifies you when an email has been deleted (or maybe something else also). Below is an example of a new email being received.

MSG	Hotmail	Hotmail	340
MIME-Version:			1.0
Content-Type:	<code>text/x-msmsgsemailnotification;</code>	<code>charset=UTF-8</code>	

From: Mike Mintz  
Message-URL: /cgi-bin/getmsg?msg=MSG1029401739.3&start=1610592&len=402&curmbox=ACTIVE  
Post-URL: https://lc1.law13.hotmail.passport.com/ppssecure/domesengerlogin/EN  
Subject: Mi  
Dest-Folder: ACTIVE  
From-Addr: example@passport.com  
id: 2

Below is an example of when I erase a message in my inbox.

MSG Hotmail Hotmail 145  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: text/x-msmsgsactive@mailnotification;  
charset=UTF-8  
  
Src-Folder: ACTIVE  
Dest-Folder: trash  
Message-Delta: 1

Claims 1, 8, and 15 are directed to a method, system, and product for activating a non-SMS device connectable to an IP-based network, comprising the steps of, means for, and code for:

sending an activation message to said non-SMS device over an IP-based messaging protocol;

determining whether said activation message contains a server initiated action (SIA) message identifier (MSN teaches receiving messages containing a Content-Type field that identifies the type of message, wherein the type of message can be an SIA chat message (an email notification) (text/x-

msmsgsemailnotification) or a textual message from another user (text/plain) [see “messaging.php”, pages 5-6]); and

if said activation message contains an SIA message identifier, configuring said non-SMS device to initiate an action contained in an SIA message in said activation message. (The email notification message shown above is clearly an “activation message” that “contains a server initiated action (SIA) message.”

1. MSN does not expressly disclose that the inherent device that receives the message is a “non-SMS device.”

However, nowhere does MSN teach or suggest that the protocol is in any way limited to SMS devices. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the MSN protocol on a well-known non-SMS device such as a personal computer. The motivation for doing so would have been to utilize any of the advantages of the MSN protocol such as the ability to chat with other users and receive email notifications.

2. MSN does not expressly disclose “determining” whether received messages “contain a server initiated action (SIA).”

MSN discloses that the recipient device receives various different types of messages such as profile messages with Content-Type field of "text/x-msmsgsprofile" and email notification messages with Content-Type field of "text/x-msmsgsemailnotification" (see “connecting.php” at pp. 3-4).

This “determining” step appears to be inherent because if the recipient does not determine the type of message then the message cannot be processed accordingly. Moreover, even if there is some reason unbeknownst to the examiner that this step is not inherent, it would clearly have been obvious to perform this determining in order to process these messages according to their content type.

3. MSN does not expressly disclose, if the activation message contains an SIA message, configuring the receiving device to “initiate an action contained in the SIA message.”

The activation message corresponds to the email notification. The claimed “action” can be merely opening a browser using the “Message-URL” and “Post-URL” specified in the email notification.

Thus, “configuring” the device to initiate an action merely amounts to installing a browser on the device. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to install such a browser so that the user could view the email corresponding to email notifications.

As to claims 4, 11, and 18, MSN teaches that the IP-based messaging protocol comprises a chat protocol (MSN Instant Messenger Protocol) [see “messaging.php”, pages 5-6, which shows users chatting with each other].

As to claims 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, and 21, MSN teaches that the activation message (email notification message) further includes an initiation command (Message-URL and Post-URL) [see “connecting.php”, page 4].

One of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the initiation command (Message-URL and Post-URL) are clearly intended to initiate access an email message (the email from Mike Mintz) [see “connecting.php”, page 4].

MSN does not expressly disclose that the client receiving the command (Message-URL and Post-URL) initiates the command (Message-URL and Post-URL) to access the email message (the email from Mike Mintz), as set forth in claims 3 and 10. Also, MSN does not disclose launching of a program on the non-SMS device to download email via the IP-based network, as set forth in claims 7 and 14.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to initiate the command (Message-URL and Post-URL) to access the email message (the email from Mike Mintz) [see “connecting.php”, page 4] using a well-known browser program such as Internet Explorer. The motivation for doing so would have been to access the contents of the email message.

As to claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, and 20, MSN does not expressly disclose that the non-SMS device client provides an alert or indication that there is a new email available over the IP-based network.

Providing the command (Message-URL and Post-URL) to a well-known browser program such as Internet Explorer, as detailed above, is an indication to the browser and/or the user that there is email available for download.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art provide the command (Message-URL and Post-URL) to a well-known browser program such as Internet Explorer. The motivation for doing so would have been to access the contents of the email message.

As to claims 22 and 26, MSN teaches receiving messages containing a Content-Type field that identifies the type of message, wherein the type of message can be an SIA chat message (an email notification) (text/x-msmsgsemailnotification) or a textual message from another user (text/plain) [see “messaging.php”, pages 5-6; “connecting.php”, page 4].

identify the SIA chat messages containing message identifiers (the new email notification messages has MIME content type to identify the message (text/x-msmsgsemailnotification and text/x-msmsgsactivemailnotification. The first one notifies you when a new email has been received. The second notifies you when an email has been deleted (or maybe something else also). See page 12 under the Sub Title other messages).

1. MSN does not expressly disclose blocking display of an SIA chat message (an email notification message). But, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that the SIA chat messages (email notifications) are not intended to be displayed because the textual messages that are intended to be

displayed have a Content-Type field value set to “text/plain” [see “messaging.php”, pages 5-6]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to block standard display of the SIA chat messages (email notification messages) to comply with the intended use of the protocol.

2. MSN teaches that there are instructions (Message-URL and Post-URL) contained in said SIA chat messages (email notifications) [see “connecting.php”, page 4]. But, MSN does not expressly disclose executing these instructions. One of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that the instructions (Message-URL and Post-URL) were intended to retrieve an associated email. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to execute the instructions (Message-URL and Post-URL) using a known browser to retrieve the email.

3. MSN does not expressly state that the client is a non-SMS device. However, nowhere does MSN teach or suggest that the protocol is in any way limited to SMS devices. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the MSN protocol on a well-known non-SMS device such as a personal computer. The motivation for doing so would have been to utilize any of the advantages of the MSN protocol such as the ability to chat with other users and receive new email notifications.

As to claims 24 and 25, executing the instructions (Message-URL and Post-URL) using a browser is an action that alerts that indicates receipt of the

email by the server and automatically connects the non-SMS device to the server.

**Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-22, and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA (the Admitted Prior Art in the Background section of the Specification) in view of Gress (U.S. Patent No. 7,024,209).**

The APA admits that substantial claimed features such as notifying an SMS device of the arrival of a new email by sending an SIA activation message to the device, waking-up the device, and downloading the email on the device were well known in the art [see Specification, paragraphs 2-6]. The only apparent difference between the APA and these claims is that the claims specify that the device is a non-SMS device.

Gress teaches a system for converting SMS messages into a unified format and sending the messages to non-SMS devices [see Gress, abstract]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Gress' system to receive the SIA activation message and retrieve the email accordingly because Gress' system provides advantages such as enabling non-SMS type devices to access SMS messages and fulfilling the need for a unified messaging system [see Gress, abstract, col. 2, ll. 1-14].

### **Conclusion**

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yasin Barqadle whose telephone number is 571-272-3947. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571-272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Yasin M Barqadle/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2456

Application/Control Number: 10/774,651  
Art Unit: 2456

Page 13